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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/797,294 | 03/10/2004 | Robert R. Sutter JR. | 45781.85038-001 | 4428 |

35684 7590 11/18/2008

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| EXAMINER |
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BARFIELD, ANTHONY DERRELL

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3636

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| NOTIFICATION DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
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11/18/2008

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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| | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/797,294 | Applicant(s) SUTTER ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Anthony D. Barfield | Art Unit 3636 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 July 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-18 and 20-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 22-28 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-18, 20, 21 and 29-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 11-13, 29 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Robinson. Robinson shows the use of a first and second head restraint support (48) having a first elongate portion (54) for receiving a bun (16) thereon; a bracket (46); and a latch mechanism (32), the latch mechanism including a rotatable cam (72) that can be selectively rotated independently of the first head restraint support between a latched position in which a second curved arcuate portion (58) having a latch (70) integrally formed thereon and extending therefrom is engaged by an end surface of the rotational earn and thereby, locked against pivotal movement and an unlatched position in which the second portion of the first head restraint support can pivot immediately over the cam (see Figs. 3 and 4). Robinson shows that the first elongate and second arcuate curved portions form a “generally” J-shape with a pivot hole “near” a free end of the arcuate portion.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

Art Unit: 3636

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 14-18, 20-21, and 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robinson in view of Kamrath et al. Robinson shows the use of a first stop pin (108) attached to the bracket and a stabilizer bar (28) via the headrest frame. Robinson further shows the use of a first and second latch surfaces (62,64) on the second portion of the first head restraint support which engages the stop pin to prohibit rotation. A tension spring (78) biases the cam in a first direction. A cable pin included on the cam receives an end (88) of a cable wire (86). Robinson shows all of the teachings of the claimed invention except the use of a rotational bar extending through the first and second head restraint supports and the use of cylindrically shaped head restraint supports. Kamrath et al. shows the conventional use of a rotational bar (36) extending through first and second head restraint supports (31) which have a cylindrically shaped geometry. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the head restraint of Robinson with a rotational bar and cylindrically shaped head restraint support, as taught by Kamrath et al. in order to better secure and stabilize the bun during rotational movement of the first and second head restraint supports.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 22-28 are allowed over the prior art made of record.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 7/21/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to applicant's arguments that Robinson failed to show a "J-shaped

Art Unit: 3636

configuration”, the examiner of the position that in fact Robinson shows a “generally” J-shaped configuration for a head restraint as shown in the Figures.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Kamrath et al. shows the conventional use of cylindrically shaped supports with a rod therebetween attached to side plates. The use of cylindrical rods attached to an arcuate side plate is within the scope of one of ordinary skill in the art.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony D. Barfield whose telephone number is 571-272-6852. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Anthony D Barfield/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3636

adb
November 10, 2008